

■ SPORTS / A30
RP's Boom Boom Bautista stops Nicaraguan in 3rd

■ BUSINESS / B2-1
Tourism keeps firms alive in Intramuros

■ NEWS / A2
Hagedorn blames resurgence of 'jueteng' on cops

■ WORLD / A28
Swede dies while skiing down Mt. Everest

Cheap in Divisoria, but 'mega-cheap' in Yiwu

By Leila B. Salaverria

YIWU, CHINA—THE "48 CORRECTION IS A sprawling complex of 20,000 shops in Yiwu that sell everything from hampers to electronic goods at dirt cheap prices.

It explains why the cash-starved stall in Divisoria is able to sell goods at mind-boggling bargain basement rates that had left perplexed

CHEAP A11

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, May 22, 2006 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 162 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Mt. Everest rule: Leave nothing, not even waste

By Volt Contreras

BEFORE THEY COULD reach the summit of glory, climbers of Mount Everest have to pass one of the toughest tests of body and will, amid freezing, high-altitude conditions.

MT. EVEREST A6



GMA stand favoring mining miffs bishop

'What's use of study if she doesn't follow it?'

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE HEAD OF THE fact-finding body that investigated Australian mining operations on Rapu-Rapu Island yesterday said he would write a "strongly worded" letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo if she ignores the panel's recommendation to stop mining on the island.

Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes chaired a nine-member commission that looked into the Rapu-Rapu mining operations in Albay following two incidents of tailings spills that residents had blamed for fish kills in their area.

"If she will not follow our recommendations, I will write a letter, a strongly worded letter ... What is the use of having a study if she does not follow it?" the Roman Catholic prelate said in an interview over the Church-run Radio Veritas.

The Bastes commission had called on the government to cancel the environmental compliance certificate issued to Lafayette, stop mining operations in Rapu-Rapu and review the Mining Act, especially its provisions on ownership and management of mining companies and operations.

Lafayette said the commission's report was "unscientific and flawed."

In a statement, the company said the commission "disregarded several independently conducted scientific studies saying that there was no mercury contamination of the coastal areas of Sorsogon. But the report insisted that the fish scare was true and was caused by Lafayette."

GMA A22



MARINES from Task Force Basi eject a retired Navy officer and his family from their quarters at the Bonifacio Naval Station in Fort Bonifacio. At least 56 houses in the subdivision have been cleared in the past two days.

Retired Navy officers evicted from houses

By Luige A. del Puerto

FACING EVICTION, A GRAY-haired retired Navy officer scuffled with Marines and locked himself up inside his house at the Bonifacio Naval Station, pleading for more time so he could pack his belongings before surrendering his home.

"These are 40 years worth of possessions, all I ask is for more time," said Nicardo Abaya, a former chief superintendent of the Police Maritime Group who moved to the BNS housing complex in 1983.

His daughters said they hardly slept the night before to comply with the directive to leave. Abaya's family planned to move out later in the evening.

Showing determination to carry out the eviction orders, a dozen Marines using their bare hands lifted Abaya's car moments earlier and placed the vehicle outside the subdivision gate. This provoked the brief scuffle.

Capt. Geronimo Malabanan, Navy spokesperson, said 56 houses had been cleared during the two-day operation to rid the complex of overstaying personnel.

Jars, toys, bicycles and boxes littered the lawns of some of the

RETIRED A22

CPP mass graves found, says Gonzales

By Michael Lim Ubac and Tarrazona Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

THE MILITARY HAS UNEARTHED the skeletal remains of communist rebels and sympathizers believed to have been summarily executed by their comrades, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said yesterday.

The mass graves containing the remains were found in adjacent barangays in San Fernando town in Bukidnon, Gonzales said. He attributed the "atrocities" to the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Gonzales has claimed that the recent wave of killings of leftist militants in the country was part of purges being undertaken by the CPP in its effort to weed out infiltrators.

"All of these atrocities occurred in the town of San Fernando, Bukidnon, and were documented by the 26th Infantry Battalion based in Cagayan de Oro City," Gonzales told the Inquirer.

Rep. Satur Ocampo, leader of the Bayan Muna party-list group, denied that the bloody purges that shook the communist movement in the 1970s and '80s were continuing to this day.

Ocampo said blaming the killings of activists on purges within the leftist ranks was government propaganda intended to "exculpate the state security forces that appear circumstantially to be the perpetrators."

Gonzales said he was informed of the mass graves during a briefing given him and Brig. Gen. Cardozo Luna, commanding general of the 4th Infantry Division.

Other atrocities allegedly perpetrated by the NPA included the recruitment of "child warriors" and the abduction and rape of a teenaged by a rebel commander, he said.

He said the 26th IB had documented at least 21 cases of liquidation since 2002.

"Among the victims was former

CPP A6

SC chief brings issues of RP crisis to international stage

ANALYSIS

By Amando Doronila

CHIEF JUSTICE ARTEMIO PANGANIBAN brought the case of the increasing authoritarian tendencies of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration to the center of the international legal arena last week when he spoke at the Georgetown Law Center in Washington D.C.

Panganiban told the assembly that the recent landmark decisions of the Philippine Supreme Court upheld the Filipinos' political liberties against the encroachment of "creeping" authoritarianism. He said the court had drawn the no-trespassing line on the Arroyo administration to "safeguard the liberty of our people and to nurture their prosperity, while upholding the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary."

He was referring to the recent court rulings on Executive Order No. 464, which empowered security forces to escalate tough measures in breaking up antigovernment rallies, and Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, which placed the Philippines under a weeklong state of emergency on Feb. 25.

The court declared illegal EO 464, which had been euphemistically called by the Arroyo administration its "calibrated preemptive response" policy to clamp its mailed-fist approach. The tribunal stopped security forces from making warrantless arrests of protesters. The court further curbed the powers of the President to issue decrees that authorized security forces to raid and censor newspaper offices and TV radio stations in the enforcement of PP 1017.

Panganiban said the two landmark decisions, which were issued in April, underlined the court's accent—to uphold "the primacy of civil liberties over government action."

He provided the international

SC CHIEF A6



MERCY MISSION

US Navy men patrol the waters of Manila Bay where the USNS Mercy, a US hospital ship that offers a full spectrum of surgical and medical services, is anchored. (Story on Page A2.)

DEVELOPING JOLO

'Boulevard of Death' no more

By Joan Orendain
Contributor

JOLO—IT WAS CALLED "THE Boulevard of Death" since 1970.

Today, the road lined with solid coffee trees ringing the island of Jolo does not exude the air of doom and gloom. Happy children welcome visitors with a warm "Hello!"

The shift is deliberate and palpable, from body-count syndrome to developing communities, to bring them a better quality of life and economic independence.

The commander of the 2nd Marine Brigade, newly promoted Brig. Gen. Juancho Sabban, seems determined to make it work.

The officer is a town planner, economic strategist and education czar on the island. His work is making itself felt even in the town of Patikul outside the provincial capital and scattered areas where the enemy is beginning to be denied access.

In earlier days, military operations—"sweep, bomb"—constituted 80 percent of military activities. Twenty percent comprised civil-military operations, which meant developing communities. There has been a reversal. The Armed Forces mission is now 70 percent CMO and 30 percent combat operations.

"Now, we have higher intelligence," Sabban says. "The townsfolk tell us, so our selective targets are intelligence-driven. We are able to avoid collateral damage," which are civilians hurt in the crossfire.

The potential for a booming fisheries and agriculture-based economy is there. One look at the rich, brown loamy soil and the

BOULEVARD A13

WEATHER FORECAST

[illegible]

Second FRONT PAGE

'Jueteng' resurgence blamed on police

LAW ENFORCERS' INACTION, NOT THE OPERAtions of the Small Town Lottery (STL), is mainly responsible for the resurgence of "jueteng" in more than a dozen Luzon provinces, according to the government's antijueteng czar.

[illegible]

STL as transition

[illegible]

Jueteng is back

[illegible]

Blame it on STL

[illegible]



HAPPY 80TH

[illegible]

'Big cleanup' in offing, says Palace

[illegible]

Scheduled Cha-cha talks elates Palace

[illegible]



Groups' next target: Plebiscite

[illegible]

US ship docks in RP on mission of mercy

[illegible]

Gasoline, LPG prices raised anew

SPLITS by CARRIER

It's about time.

Alpha
Your first split.

The Carrier Alpha Split is your easy access to split air-conditioning. The Alpha Split is easy to own because it is certainly within your reach. It is packed with practical, efficient, energy-saving features that bear the assurance of Carrier reliability.



It's all about cooling your homes and businesses.

When choosing your split air-conditioning system, put your money where your trust is. Whether it is for the bigger rooms of your house or your place of business. Because what you choose today will define your cooling comfort tomorrow. And the guaranteed return on your investment.

It's all about knowing Carrier expertise is within reach.

For over 100 years now, Carrier has defined what air conditioning is all about. This expertise has allowed Carrier to introduce unique and pioneering breakthroughs only a leader can. Value added programs such as easy acquisition, after sales service, warranties and genuine parts supply. All these to assure you of high quality reliable units. Inquire from your dealer about these features.

It's all about energy efficiency.

Power consumption is everyone's concern. Whether at home or in your place of business. Which is why the Alpha Split has a unique feature called Economic Running. This allows the Alpha Split to automatically adjust the temperature to an optimum level. Also, a 24-hour ON and OFF timer will allow the unit to go on and off at predetermined intervals. Add to this a high Energy Efficient Ratio (EER) and you are assured of maximum savings in electricity.

It's all about advanced technology working for you.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. This same adage applies to the Carrier Split. It is equipped with a Self-Diagnostic Device which detects potential system malfunctions and protects your split from any damage.

Carrier®

Turn to the Experts™

No budget for PCGG, senators vow





Mt. Everest rule: Leave nothing, not even waste

Brain-addling effects

Keeping warm

Camp on moving glacier

Drinking water

Sound of Everest



Palace: Nur's fate up to court

[illegible]

Gonzalez: Nothing wrong with HK raid

[illegible]



SC chief brings issues of RP crisis …

From page A1

Judicial activism

2 lethal issues

3 points emphasized









CPP mass …

From page A1

Killed before horrified families

Military has witnesses

'Not us'

Part of campaign vs GMA

Palparan confirms threats

'I have no mercy'

Bullets or votes!



Suspected rebels kill 2 cops

Terror no laughing matter

By [illegible]

[illegible]

Bomb jokes

[illegible]

Son of Bin Laden

[illegible]

Cheap in Divisoria, but 'mega-cheap' in Yiwu



Philippines a small buyer

Low prices despite markup

Favorites

Import permits

Low labor cost

'Boulevard of Death' no more



Livelihood projects

Lobster capital

Basic needs

More people along roads

Centerpiece of strategy

Where he gets get-go

Civilian protection

Public education free, DepEd reminds execs

Preneed firm would release funds in June

The Daily Gospel

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Vol. 21 No. 167

OPINION

Soaring high

THE NEWS FROM THE TOP OF THE WORLD is clear and bracing. Filipinos have finally made it to the summit of Mt. Everest, the world's highest peak. In a twist of providence that Filipino mountain climbers will long talk about, the dream of bringing the first Filipino to the "roof of the world" turned unexpectedly, delightfully, into a happier reality: Three Filipinos summited Everest in three days, and safely descended.

EDITORIALS

We salute Leo Oracion, Erwin Emata and Romi Garduce for their amazing feat. If anything, they made scaling Everest look too easy; unlike some other countries' first expeditions, the Philippines' first attempt succeeded beyond anyone's expectations.

As any mountaineer can attest, however, climbing the world's tallest mountain remains a dangerous undertaking. Since Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay first reached the summit in 1953, over 1,500 climbers have made it to the peak. Now Oracion et al. join that distinguished company, which includes (the same week they made it) a double-amputee mountaineer from New Zealand. But the mountain has also claimed the lives of over 180 climbers. That is a truly deadly ratio; if, say, one in every 10 boxers died in the ring, calls for the abolition of the sport would be overwhelming. In this year's climbing season alone, several have already died, including three Sherpas and one Czech climber.

We wish to belabor this point, because we believe that the potential for fatal risk-taking increased when the First Philippine Mount Everest Expedition decided to accelerate its well-planned schedule by a full 12 months, by sending Oracion and Emata on what is called a "reconnaissance" climb to Everest. We can only give thanks that the decision turned into triumph, not tragedy. (But we also note the expedition's simple but elegant strategy of splitting Oracion and Emata; if weather or other circumstances had prevented the first from ascending to the summit, at least the latter would have had another shot at it.)

To be sure, not a few have asked: Why climb Everest in the first place? We live in a tropical country where the tallest mountain is about half the height of Everest's base camp; we have—not to put too fine a point on it—no tradition of alpine climbing.

To this basic question the classic mountaineer's answer holds true: Because it's there. We can also add that in the last decade or so, ascending Everest has become almost a rite of passage for developing countries. Singapore and Malaysia, for example, did it in recent years; in both cases, their expeditions turned into a focus of national unity and a symbol of national purpose. It is precisely for these same reasons that we celebrate the achievement of our three mountaineers.

Sinking low

THE NEWS FROM THE BONIFACIO NAVAL Station in Fort Bonifacio is grim and depressing. In an effort to force retired officers, many of them generals and admirals, from military quarters they continue to occupy, Marines were sent to evict them.

A task force called "Balik Bahay" enforced the "final notice of eviction" issued on May 12, which had largely been ignored. The aim was to clear the housing compound to finally allow active-duty military personnel to use them. By the Navy's count, some 58 former senior officers and 112 former enlisted personnel, plus their families, had overstayed their welcome in the compound.

The retired military men had continued to stay in the housing compound based on a contested title (in the name of the Naval Officers Village Association, a title which the Armed Forces of the Philippines says is spurious). The issue is under litigation, but petitions for a temporary restraining order to stop the eviction were denied by two different regional trial courts.

While we value the life of sacrifice and service the retirees rendered to the country, we recognize the duty of the armed services to enforce regulations—and to provide for the welfare of active-duty personnel. Given limited government resources, the AFP has no choice but to dedicate the use of the housing units to those still in active service.

The retired officers and men should acknowledge and consent to this fundamental necessity. Not to do so is to sink to an indignity they do not deserve, but which they had coming: To be sent packing, with active-duty soldiers stuffing their belongings in cardboard boxes.



How much do our lawmakers pay in taxes?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

[illegible]

Because it's there

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

[illegible]

It's not yet over

COMMENTARY

Dreaming dreams

COMMENTARY

Goin' bananas

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO



Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

Mediocrity long imposed on voters

THE LONG VIEW



Manuel L. Quezon III

'The Da Vinci Code': filtering device to weed out hypocrites, weak believers

[illegible]

LETTERS

[illegible]

A disservice to the Supreme Court

[illegible]



'Wage increases' are actually just 'wage recovery'

[illegible]

Fallacious arguments vs Cha-cha

[illegible]

DepEd should put up program for ADHD and dyslexic children

[illegible]

Across the NATION

'Caloy' leaves ₱1.9-B damage in Batangas

BATANGAS CITY—STORM "CALOY" LEFT ABOUT ₱1.9 billion worth of damages in Batangas province, according to the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council (PDCC).

Bugs blown back to Catanduanes, Camarines Sur

Adult bugs

Camarines

Left asks bishop, ex-senator to lead probe of slays



PARK ATTRACTION
A peacock at the Eden Nature Park in Toril District, Davao City, spreads his feather to attract a female fowl.

Catanduanes police stumped by killings

Eng'rs, tutors displace criminology grads in PNP

By Vincent Cabreza

'Jueteng' operations run by local financiers

Hybrid rice farmers in E. Visayas to get subsidy

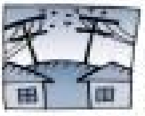
ROUNDUP

Landslides in Davao village



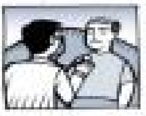
MILF hail mountaineers

Stolen wires worsen 'Caloy' destruction



1 dead in Lucban fiesta

Healing caravan-pilgrimage



OIC working on MNLF, MILF unity, says envoy



Giving contraceptives to people challenge to LGUs, says gov

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—The pullout of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) in providing contraceptives to Filipino families is posing a big challenge to local governments, Gov. Victor Agbayani said.

For 30 years, the USAID has been providing pills, condoms, injectables and intrauterine devices (IUDs), but it is slowly withdrawing support and is shifting to technical assistance for the country's population program.

"For three decades, we have been dependent on the USAID donation, but now we have to provide for the family planning commodity needs of our priority clients," Agbayani said during the Barangay Service Point Officers (BSPO) Congress held here on Thursday.

The BSPOs are volunteer workers of the government's population program.

Agbayani said local governments had been tasked with implementing the population program, but the national government had not been extending financial help in the purchase of contraceptives.

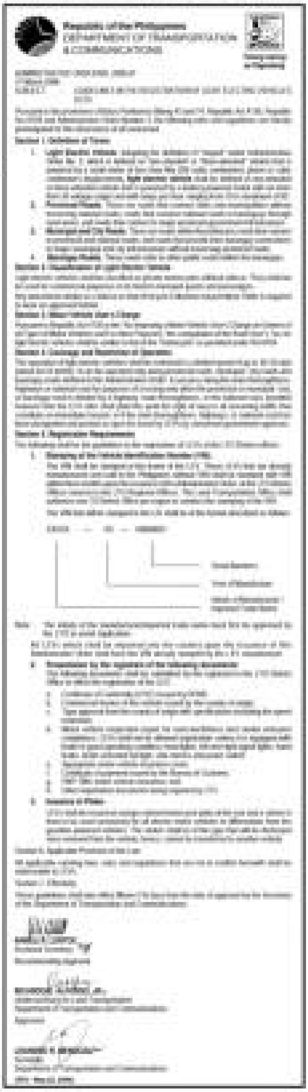
"We are doing the spending ourselves, but this is not enough. We plan to give supplies only to poor women. Half of the family planning users can afford to buy their own supplies but they have been used to getting the supplies and they still want it that way," he said.

Some local governments have been buying contraceptives for the needs of women in their areas, according to provincial population officer Luz Mingo.

The provincial population office (PPO) is conducting a living standard survey to classify couples who can or cannot afford to buy their own supplies.

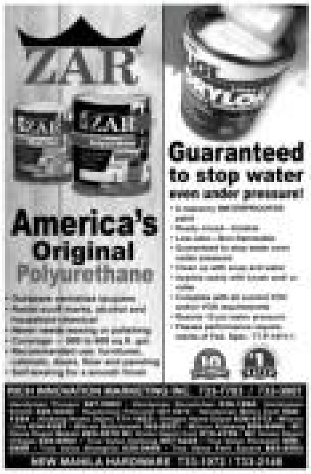
"Those who have the means to buy their contraceptives should not compete for access with those who cannot. But we cannot implement this plan yet until the result of the survey is out. Perhaps we can give identification cards to those who can't afford to buy their supply," Agbayani said.

Family planning is a "politically sensitive issue" and the supplies are seen as "commodity" that must be provided by the government, Mingo said.





Sigaw ng Bayan races to push thru with 'people's initiative'







GMA stand favoring mining miffs bishop

Mining companies elated

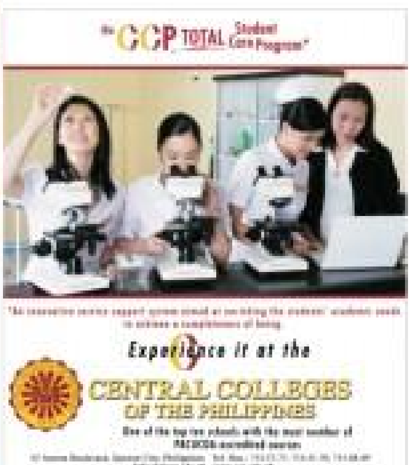
Clear signal



DENR still to evaluate findings on Rapu-Rapu

Holistic view





Retired Navy officers evicted from houses

IN THE KNOW

What went before

Court injunction

Happy and satisfied

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE

NEWS

SUERTRES 2 2 6

EZ2 18 20

SUPERLOTTO 6/49 5 8 15 22 23 40 P21,050,744.40



Fishery, farm projects impress E Guinea head

THE WINNING cock is presented to President Mbasogo [illegible]

By [illegible]
[illegible] Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—IMPRESSED BY the fishery development program of the Philippines, Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Mbasogo said he would send officials and workers from his country to learn the technology at the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Research Center here.

[illegible]

Returning the favor

[illegible]

Serenade and cockfight

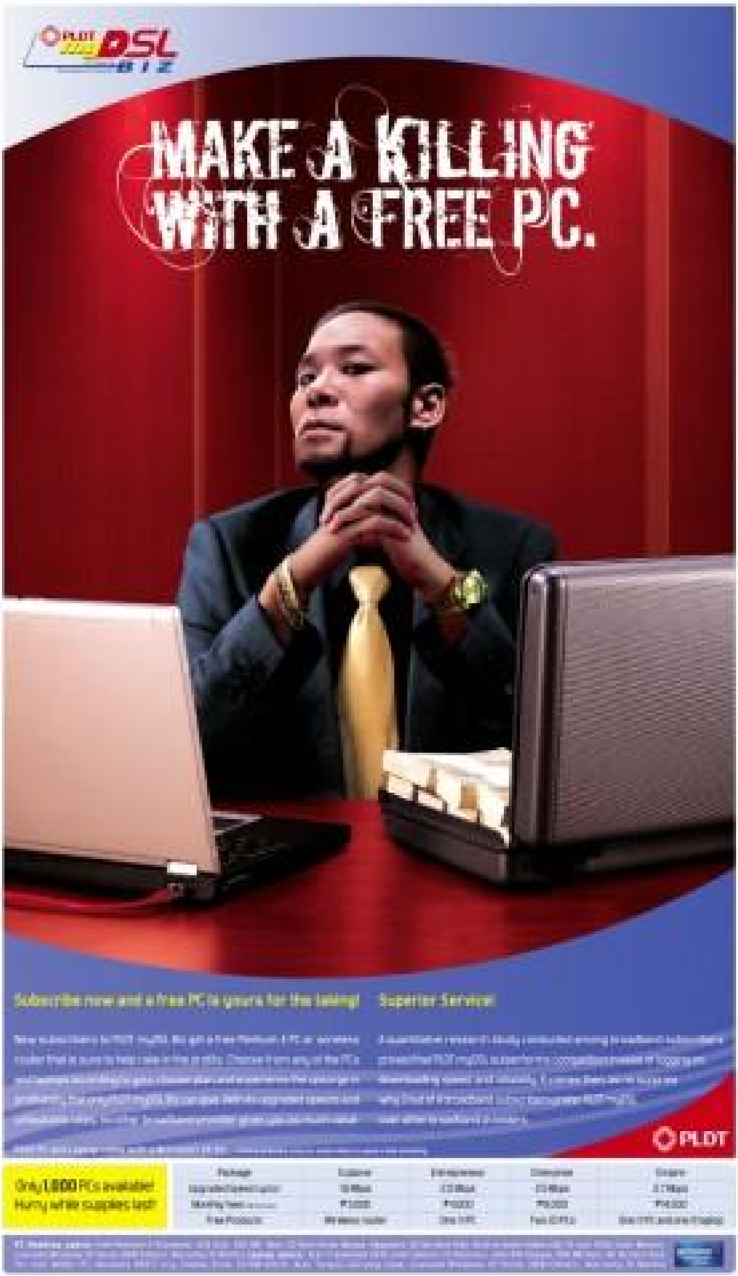
[illegible]

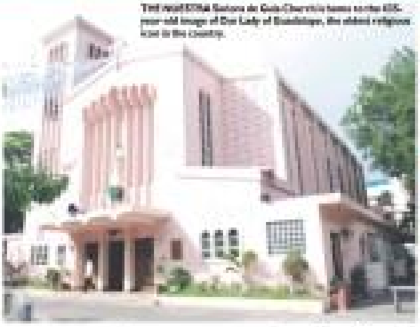
Open doors

[illegible]

Learn agriculture

[illegible]



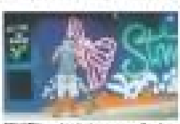




Ermita: Faithful to you, in our own fashion



Leaving home

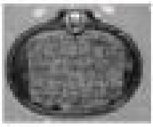


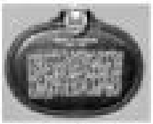
Marikina student wins in Intel science fair

Ermita: Faithful to you . . .









NBI rescues 33 girls from Makati sex den

Iran won't suspend uranium enrichment

AFP

Thousands rally in Indonesia

AFP



INDONESIAN Muslims rally on the street in Jakarta, May 21, to press parliament to pass an anti-pornography bill.

Typhoon 'Chanchu' leaves nearly 90 dead, hundreds missing in Asia

AFP

Scientists clear technical hurdle in fusion research

AFP

Flood in China coal mine traps 44 miners

AP

WorldBriefs

Deadly bird flu strain in Burkina Faso

AFP

15 dead in new Afghan battles

AFP

Oil tank explodes in Japan

Reuters

5 killed in US coal mine blast

Reuters

The WORLD

Editor: Lorenzo B. Ocampo

Iraq new gov't sworn into office

BAGHDAD—IRAQ FORMED ITS FIRST FULL term government since the 2003 invasion Saturday, a broad coalition aimed at uniting a country torn by sectarian bloodshed but still lacking permanent ministers in key security posts.

The Cabinet of 37 ministers was approved by MPs after being presented to parliament by Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, who announced a national plan to bring Iraq out of its security crisis.

Iraqis want "democratic institutions" and "establish an atmosphere of love and tolerance," Maliki told parliament before he and his ministers were sworn in, hands on the Koran.

He said the country needed an "objective timetable so that Iraqi forces may assume the security task in full and an end of the missions of the multinational forces and their return to their countries."

The unveiling of the new Cabinet after more than five months of fraught coalition talks was welcomed by UN chief Kofi Annan, as well as the United States and its main coalition allies.

But underlining the pervasive threat of violence, 26 people were killed in insurgent attacks, including 15 who lost their lives in a bomb blast in Baghdad just hours ahead of the announcement of the government lineup.

The blast hit the Shiite neighborhood of Sadr City, also wounding 58 workers at a food stall where they had gathered for breakfast, the interior ministry said.

The protracted delay in forming the new government had raised concerns that the power vacuum was allowing insurgents to seize the initiative.

However, the new lineup lacked permanent appointments to the sensitive interior and defense ministries after persistent wrangling between Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish politicians forced further negotiations.

In the meantime, Maliki will run the interior ministry while Sunni deputy prime minister designate Salam al-Zawbai will run the defense ministry for the next week.

Barham Saleh, a Kurdish politician who was also named a deputy prime minister, became acting minister of state security.

Among other key posts, Shiite independent Hussein Shahristani, a former deputy speaker, was named oil minister.

In a surprise move, the outgoing interior minister Bayan Jabr Solagh, who had faced criticism over Shiite-led militias said to operate among forces under his command, was given the finance portfolio.

Four women were also made ministers.

The United States hailed the government's formation and said it should create conditions in which US troop numbers would begin to be drawn down.

"Iraqis now have a fully constitutional government, marking the end of a democratic transitional process in Iraq that has been both difficult and inspiring," said President George W. Bush.

"The broadly representative unity government offers a new opportunity for progress in Iraq."



SWORN: Arab Deputy Prime Minister Salam Zikam Ali al-Zubaie, Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and Kurd Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh (front row, left to right) sit in front of other parliamentarians as they attend the inauguration of Iraq's new national unity government inside the heavily fortified Green Zone in Baghdad May 20. AP

US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said the new government "represents the end of Iraq's political transition that began in April 2003."

"With the political change that has taken place ... conditions are likely to move in the right direction and that would allow adjustments in terms of the size composition and mission of our forces," he added.

A spokesperson for UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said he "wishes the new government every success in confronting the enormous challenges facing Iraq." AFP

'Da Vinci Code' grosses $29M on opening day

LOS ANGELES—"THE DA VINCI Code" banked an estimated $29 million at the box office on its first day in theaters, an industry official said Saturday, positioning the film to turn in the strongest opening weekend for any movie this year.

Preliminary results showed that the movie, based on a runaway best-seller and starring multiple Oscar winner Tom Hanks, appealed to moviegoers despite lackluster reviews.

The Columbia Pictures movie opened in 3,735 theaters in the US and grossed a respectable average of $7,764 per screen.

"This is the first big film of the summer to exceed box-office expectations," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., which tracks box-office receipts.

Dergarabedian said the movie could gross $80 million to $90 million in its opening weekend. That would easily eclipse Tom Cruise's latest offering, Paramount's "Mission: Impossible III," which fell well below expectations with $48 million on its opening weekend earlier this month.

For "The Da Vinci Code," controversy around a script that suggests Jesus married and fathered a child "only served to pump up the marketplace and get moviegoers get really interested in seeing what the fuss was about," Dergarabedian said. AP

Swedish dies while skiing down Mt. Everest



TOP: 25-year-old Tomas Olsson on top of Mont Blanc in the French Alps in 2005. AFP

STOCKHOLM—A SWEDISH ADVENTURER trying to ski down the north face of Mount Everest was killed after falling from a cliff, TT news agency said Monday, quoting the man's father.

Tomas Olsson went missing Tuesday after tumbling from a cliff at some 8,500 meters (28,000 feet), as he and fellow adventurer Tormod Granheim of Norway were making their descent.

The two had begun an expedition on March 29 to try to be the first to ski down the north face, the most difficult, of the world's tallest mountain.

After waiting for weeks at a base camp at 6,400 meters they had mounted to the summit, at 8,850 meters.

The 35-year-old Olsson was thought to have initially fallen on Tuesday some 10 meters (35 feet) after his rope detached from the ice, and then continued to fall an unknown distance.

He was found dead by a search and rescue team sent out Saturday.

Olsson had trained in the French Alps and had already skied down several of the world's most challenging summits, including Aconcagua in Argentina, which rises 6,960 meters and Cho Oyu in Tibet, at 8,200 meters.

In an interview late last year with AFP, Olsson had rated his chances at succeeding in the Everest endeavor as slim.

"The chances that I will succeed in making it to the summit are 50-50, and of me making a descent without stopping, one in 10," he had said. AFP

SPORTS



Giants end elims on a bright note



By Musong R. Castillo

COACH RYAN GREGORIO strode into the press room grinning from ear to ear.

Lady Pirates gun for semis berth

SHAKEY'S V LEAGUE







Tangkay keys big Rain or Shine turnaround



TANGKAY

Jaca blows OPBF super feather title bid

Jewelers take MVBA Visayas 1st finals slot

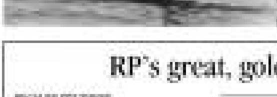
Antonio mans RP top board vs Mauritius



BATTERING BOOM BOOM

Neo, Morante star as Spring routs Ozamiz

Mangio, Isip shine in 2nd leg of jetski series



RP's great, golden Summer of 2006

BARE EYE



SPORTSWATCH

Battle of champs under way at SJC

PCAP 5-cocker today at Makati Coliseum

Bonds ties Babe, but questions still linger

SPLIT DECISION DELAYED

Barrera keeps WBC crown

LOS ANGELES—WBC super featherweight champion Marco Antonio Barrera, his face bloody and swollen by the end of his fight against Rocky Juarez, kept his title Saturday by winning a controversial, delayed split decision.



Miami hopes the Heat will never cool down

Bleakness at Preakness

Favorite Barbado breaks ankle, hearts





Shanine logs Dunlop win

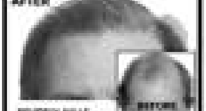
Barce leads Head tennis winners

Angola bonus: $5,000 a goal

Mayol's fate eerie reminder of boxing dangers

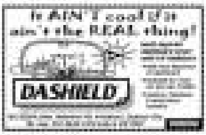
CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



SPORTS

Sultan wrests Paba title in Russia





Two prime venues ready for Ford Shootout finals

The Inquirer celebrates 20th year: The power of knowing



KOREAN SWEEP

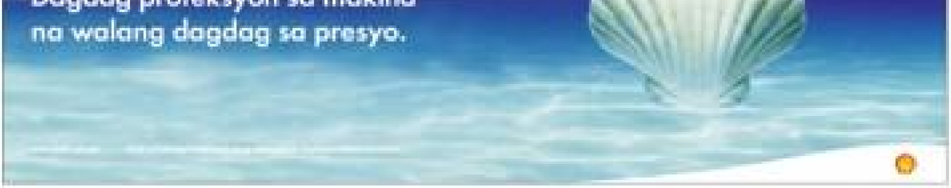


Asia-Pacific jungolf bets off to S'pore



UST, UP rule interscholastic volley





ENTERTAINMENT

Shall we?

Inquirer visits set of ABC 5's celebrity dance talent search and catches up with Cheryl Burke



INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

CHERYL Burke and partner Richard Obong



HOST Lucy Torres takes a break.



FOXTROT — BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPEN — BY JESS ABRERA



MARVIN — BY TOM ARMSTRONG



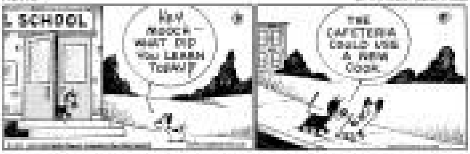
PUGAD BABOY — BY POL MEDINA JR.

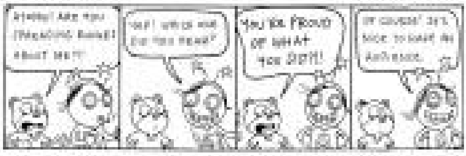


BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT



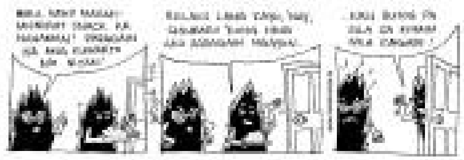
MUTTS — BY PATRICK McDONNELL



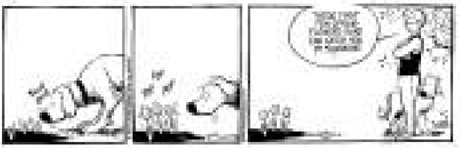


DIVINE COMEDY



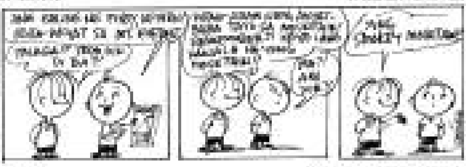


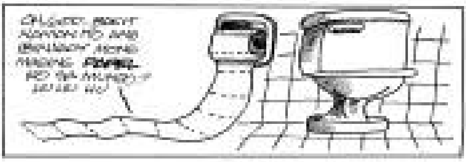
BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON



KIKO MACHINE — BY MANIX ABRERA





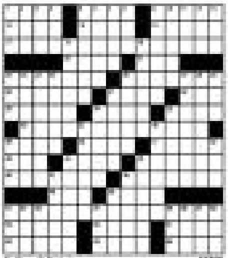


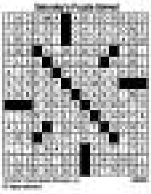
HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

[illegible]

DAILY CROSSWORD





[illegible]

'Da Vinci' like 'Harry Potter' for US adults

[illegible]

Irreverence

[illegible]

Reparation

[illegible]

Feedback

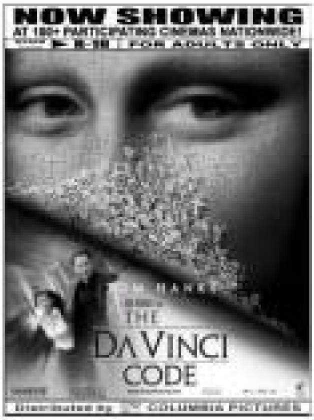
[illegible]

Shaky start for 'Bituing Walang Ningning'

VIEWFINDER
Nestor U. Torre



[illegible]







[illegible]

Channel 2's "Bituing Walang Ningning" [illegible]



NEW MINSTRELS REUNION

[illegible]

SHOW TIME

Flying car

LONDON—HARRY POTTER'S STOLEN FLYING CAR has been found [illegible]

CHEER FACTOR

[illegible]



GMA soap "Bituing Walang Ningning"

...gender roles... welcome is the ... emphasis on ... characters ... fans of... The ... action, but ... bogged by ... made to ... the loss of ... successful in the ... effort to ... "dramatic" ... many ... this, and the ... "challenging" ... the effect is ... because it looks

...effected.

As for Sarah Geronimo as the new Dorina, she made her first appearance in the series last Wednesday. Like Ai Ai, she did her level best to come up with a natural and sympathetic performance—but she didn't fully succeed, because she played it pa-cute in some scenes.

The teenage actress should realize that she's already cute, so she doesn't have to resort to self-conscious embellishments to tickle viewers' fancy.

As these initial notes indicate, the show's first telecast left something to be desired. But we continue to hope (against hope?) that the people behind the program can learn to let their story speak for itself, instead of pushing and underlining it so relentlessly.

If they do this, the new series' star will really shine. But, if they keep gilding the lily in so insecure and determined a fashion, it will become apparent that this bitoin is fading so...

Zsa Zsa, a good actress, is bogged down by all the tears she's made to produce

...song or singing.

Plan Philippines

FROM May 2006 June 1, Plan Philippines, an international child-centered NGO, will bring to Manila some 300 children from Luzon and Visayas to lead the children's rights movement through an arts and culture festival at Glorietta Pavilion 2, ...

Dubbed "Sine Bata 2: ...," the event endeavors to strengthen child participation through the arts, and to create a venue where children can educate the public about the issues affecting them. Call 813-2961.

'Silver'

POPULAR composer ... will be honored with a concert, "Silver: The Songs of ...," on May 26 at Araneta Coliseum. Performers include Jaya, Rachelle Ann Go, Mark Bautista, ... and Chin Alcantara of ... The Company, Anna Fegi, Dingdong Avanzado, Louie Heredia and Randy Santiago. Call 911-5555.

'I'm a good boy now'



BERNARD and Rica Peralejo in happier times

Rocker hunk Bernard Palanca says Meryll Soriano has transformed him ... but that doesn't stop him from chatting about Rica and Piolo

ROUNDUP

Baguio theater hits jackpot

'Da Vinci' adventure

ABC's new shows

Chasing Brangelina

EK search for talents

Rolling Stone's 1,000th



'Komiks' vs 'Fantastikids!'

Review

From thin air

Slight edge

'Side Aid' it's called, when a band this famous sings for charity



SIDE A: Singing is one thing; doing it for a cause makes it special.

Twin cases





A worthy replacement



GRETCHEN Barretto

'Trip' long

Happy Bong

Like mom...

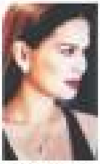
Lost gifts

Hot, hot, Eva

Jodie's idol

Pretty woman, but...

But not for Bong



MELANIE Marquez



'Rated restricted'

THE R-18 RATING OF THE Hollywood movie "The Da Vinci Code" raised a tempest of controversy.

> There are proposals to shift from R-13 to R-15 and to include an R-A along with R-18

Out to conquer music industry

Remy Posadas' first

Gary V's "Relevance"

Ready for Makahiya!

Inspired by Da Vinci



ENTERTAINMENT



JUDGES Regine Tolentino and Audie Gemora make a point.



CELEBRITIES on the dance floor, including former sugar Philip Cezar (fourth from left) with partner Susan Medalla

Shall we?



JOSHUA Zamora and partner make it look so easy!

From page A1

celebrities but not professional dancers—we have no right to malign their careers."

Another highlight of her recent four-hour visit was the chance to chat up a special guest—Hi-5's Cheryl Burke, "DWTS" champion. She was just visiting the country and scheduled to leave for the US the next day.

Cheryl appeared on a number of local variety shows apart from "Shall We Dance?" during her week-long stay. While putting on makeup, she shared with us some insightful observations: "Filipino artists are very hardworking. They put a lot of work in whatever they're doing. The only thing I noticed was, they don't just work on their numbers on the same day or the day before, they need to rehearse a little longer."



TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Business

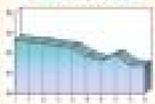
BIR collection from 'sin' products down 15%

Agency nets only P3.31B despite higher tax rates

EXCISE TAXES COLLECTED BY THE BUREAU OF Internal Revenue dropped 19 percent in April from a year ago, with the Sin Tax Law still unable to provide the expected boost to the agency's revenue collection.

SEE COLLECTION B4

Currencies



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

Stock Market

Bargain-hunting seen



Losing Pasig River ferry proponent wants rebid



BSP says RP vulnerable to capital flight; hints at interest rate hikes

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas has warned that the country could fall vulnerable to a capital flight if local bond yields remained too low compared with those of offshore debt paper.

INVITATION TO BID

Economic data for employers

No Free Lunch
Cielito F. Habito

Business vs economics

Economic numbers

Why they matter

Overall stability

Exporters buck new tack on import taxes

Cash payment requirement opposed

By Ramon M. Domingo

Malaysian investors seen investing ₱1B in plantation

By Christine A. Sagbun

Mallers' paradise

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

Money-go-round

Heard through the grapevine

Air Force One gimmick

Cable firm plans IPO in next 5 years

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Cost of sending money to RP declining

By Doris C. Dumlao

3RD MALL TO OPEN IN SEPTEMBER

Sy sets sights on China

Ayala Corp. plans to raise preferred share issue to P5.8B

Bargain-hunting seen

Bangko Sentral . . .

BSP exposure in problem banks declining

Tighter rules led to reduction in emergency loans to ₱5.24B in March from ₱27B in 2000

Senior citizen's discount card obsolete

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

DOE launching '06 contracting round

Oil, coal, geothermal sites up for bidding



PUSHING OTOP

BCDA warned against takeover of Poro Point

PNOC shipping unit declares dividend

ATM network service provider taps rural areas

Solar energy now provides power to 7,000 Mindanao households

FEATURE

BIR collection from 'sin' products ...

BSP ...

Losing Pasig River ferry ...

INQUIRER MONITOR



Gov't borrowed ₱31.458B in April

Pump-priming raises debt by 23% from '05

Microsoft to make RP testing ground

ERC urged to decide on pending petitions

PLDT supplies wireless connectivity to Air21

Business

RP seen out of IMF monitoring in '07

A year earlier than 2008 program exit schedule

By Michelle V. Remo

Bidding terms for Maynilad stake OKd

GMA to address 27th Ecop gab

BUSINESS Monday

WHAT'S INSIDE



Tourism keeps firms alive in Intramuros

Walled City charms locals, foreigners

Words to learn by

A Leader's Way



John C. Maxwell

Improving the quality of our legislation

MAPping the Future



Manuel A. Alcuaz Jr.

What size should congressional districts be?

Quality of legislation

The legislative gridlock

Economics/cost savings

What is the optimal size for legislation?

Motorists' haven



Resto loco on Morato

City gov't devises tourism plan for street

IT COULD BE JUST one of those busy thoroughfares in Quezon City with 127 establishments lining the streets.

A haven of restaurants

Investors' nest

'Beverly Hills' in the making



TOMAS Morato is home to 127 establishments.

Tourism keeps firms alive . . .



A REPLICA of the Philippine jeepney is a favorite souvenir item.



FOR P50 a tourist gets a one-hour trip around Intramuros.

BUSINESS *Monday*

Motorists' haven

Car in trouble? Consider Banawe



EVEN those who do not own cars know about Banawe.

Editor Chito Barot-Fuertes
Submission Editor Gilo B. Zulueta

LifeStyle



Lavinia goes to the nunnery

By Gibbs Cadiz

CHERIE GIL WAS 13 YEARS OLD WHEN SHE had her first taste of treading onstage. It was with the late great Adul de Leon in a ... Dulaang ... production of "Sundered Selves."

Two years later, she did a dinner theater show of Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park" with Bernardo Bernardo.

"I was so young then that whatever I did, parang wala," she recalls. "During one performance, when Bernardo said, 'Is my tie okay?', I said, 'Yeah, your tie is okay na!'"

That youthful flirtation with theater was quick and brief. In time, Gil would be launched as a film actress of much promise in Elwood Perez's "Problem Child," before attaining full stardom as Philippine cinema's classiest bitch in a string of glossy Viva melodramas in the '80s. Nearly two decades later, she is still remembered for a certain piece of dialogue that has become the most oft-quoted putdown in local pop culture.

Common hallmark

"So, yes, this is practically new for me," she says, talking about her role as a nun in Atlantis Productions' forthcoming staging of John Patrick Shanley's award-winning play "Doubt (A Parable)," under Chari Arespacochaga's direction.

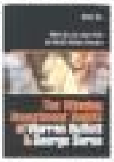
The habit-shrouded Sister Aloysius in "Doubt" is worlds away from Gil's usual gallery of coiffed, sneeringly composed bravura characters, but they nevertheless share one hallmark: an assertive intelligence that undergirds a strong sense of self.

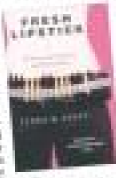
In Shanley's play, which has won a slew of theater awards including a Tony for Best Play and a Pulitzer Prize for Drama, Sister Aloysius' strong-willed character (played on Broadway by Cherry Jones, then by Dame Eileen Atkins) sparks a volcanic clash of emotions and ideas with the young Father Flynn (Brian F. O'Byrne on Broadway; ... here), whom she suspects of less-than-appropriate behavior with one of his male students.

The story, while set in a Bronx Catholic school in 1964, is topical, immediate and controversial, thanks to the recent instances of

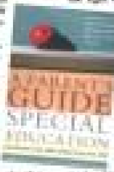
LAVINIA C3

May readings













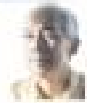
Back-to-school promotion

Portrait of the Filipina as herself





Pride of Place



Heritage watch



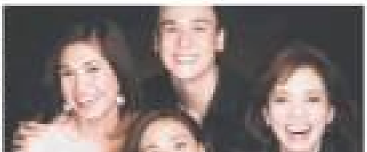
THE REPOSO streetfest





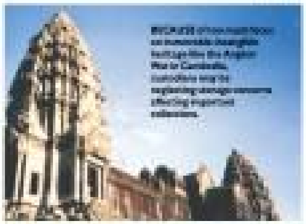


Lavinia goes to the nunnery



'The good thing about this play is that you leave the theater not really knowing the answers'





Manila meeting tackles protection . . .





Threats



German School opens its doors to English-speaking community







Manila meeting tackles protection of Southeast Asian museum collections

Starting your family's future now

Thank Goodness It's Five Days

LIFESTYLE



CARVED wooden pews at Sta. Monica Church

Breathless in Bulacan



The province north of Manila is a heritage powerhouse



ANGEL feat, Sta. Monica Church (left). The San Martin de Porres Orphanage Rondalla group (right) plays Bulakeño music.

By Russell Reyes
Contributor

THE SIMPLETON WHO thinks Bulacan is only about paputok is going to do back flips over these:

Centuries-old churches with magnificent frescos and architecture; beautifully restored ancestral houses of historic significance; a fine tradition of songs, dances and native craftsmanship; sumptuous delicacies; and historic areas where nation-shaping decisions were [illegible]—all within a province just 20 km north of Manila.

Considered as the Gateway to the North, Bulacan has seen the country evolve from a subdued Spanish colony to today's busy democracy. As a result, it is replete with rich culture and art which are by-products of roughly 500 years of civilization.

Despite its cultural riches, Bulacan has remained largely unappreciated by local tourists. So it's only fitting that the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Department of Tourism chose to highlight Bulacan culture and travels in the Filipino Heritage Festival this month.

The festival organized Lakbay Bulacan, a one-day exploration of the province's many treasures.

"Bulacan is full of cultural heritage," said Bambi Harper, festival director. "It would surprise people how all the architecture in the houses and churches were preserved, and how the traditions were upheld in a place this near to the Metro. It should be a matter of pride to all Bulakeños."

Harper herself is a Bulakeña. "I have roots in Bigaa (now Balagtas), and I'm terribly proud of what Bulacan is," she said.

The Lakbay tour kicked off in the rustic town of San Miguel de Mayumo, right by the Sierra Madre borders.

The town is a study in irony. It has all the quaint charms of small rural towns—peaceful, unaltered surroundings, hospitable people—but the town sprawls bigger than any Bulacan town except its neighbor Doña Remedios Trinidad.

The tour participants witnessed a showcase of classic Bulakeño hospitality—young dancers from the Sining Bulakenyo Dance Troupe performing the traditional welcoming ritual Sabitang, which involved a fiesta

BREATHLESS, D2





EARRINGS from Rey Antonio Jr.'s Goldtime showroom. Living room of Arnel Papa (left) serves as gallery.



JEWELRY collection of Arnel Papa

Breathless in Bulacan

From page D1

folk dance capped by the dancers adorning the guests with garlands of fruit [illegible], and serving refreshing coconut juice.

Historic caves

The Biak-na-Bato National Park in San Miguel sheltered freedom fighters during the Filipino-Spanish wars. Its caves served as secret "conference halls" for Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo and his top advisers.

The jagged cave walls [illegible] are silent witnesses to the formation of the nation.

Today [illegible] hanging bridges over the waters, connecting the network of caves and major rock formations.

The place looks like a scenic picnic and trekking spot, with historical overtones to boot.

Sweet tooth

San Miguel de Mayumo is also the home of the famous Sevilla Sisters, makers of the beloved dairy delicacy pastillas de leche.

These sweets really define the town. In fact, the town was literally named after them: Mayumo literally means sweet.

And the people have really embraced their heritage. Among the many festivals the province is celebrating this month is their very own Pastillas Festival, held for the first time last May 7.

Bulacan's tasty treasures, though, extend beyond pastillas. [illegible]



[illegible]

Grand dames

Bulacan also boasts its share of beautiful ancestral houses, which were either skillfully restored to their glorious original [illegible]. These remain still serve as [illegible] landmarks that bear witness to the province's growth and development.

In San Miguel de Mayumo alone, the houses still flourish, [illegible]

The De Leon House, built in 1914, [illegible]

[illegible]

Also notable is the Tecson House, site of the signing of the historic Pact of Biak-na-Bato.

In Bustos stands another grand old house, [illegible]

Apart from old houses, Bulacan also has some of the most beautiful churches in the country.

One of them is the famous Barasoain Church in Malolos. It is both historically and architecturally significant.





STA. MONICA Church's aisle and ceiling paintings. The ceiling replicates that of the Sistine Chapel's. It also has details of the Santa Cruces, the first baptism in the Philippines, and San Lorenzo Ruiz.

In [illegible] stands the Church of Sta. Monica, which merges Baroque architecture and contemporary motifs.

[illegible] Sistine Chapel's Ceiling.

[illegible] Pope John Paul II's World Youth Day visit to the Philippines in 1995.

All that glitters

Meycauayan, just 20 km from Metro Manila, has carved a niche for itself in jewelry art.

[illegible]

[illegible] Goldtime Jewelry, one of Meycauayan's leading jewelry producers.

A stone's throw from Meycauayan, in the town of Marilao, [illegible] Arnel Papa. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

VISUAL ARTS



"REFLECT"







"CAUTION"



Romeo Forbes remembered in 'Unfinished Business'

A SMALL RETROSPECTIVE OF works by the late prodigious young artist Romeo Forbes is on show at Blanc Art Space (2E Corona Tower, 107 De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati).

On display is a visual timeline of the evolution of the artist's popular waif figures against his signature backdrops of vibrant colors.

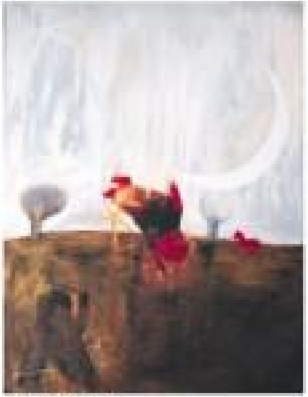
Beginning with Forbes' watercolors which feature his round-faced and slim-necked characters with mouths closed and eyeballs absent, the show proceeds to paintings of wider-bodied subjects, [illegible] their heads with symbols of different colors, lips parted or mouths agape. Also on [illegible] sculptures (on view for the first time), which are his well-loved shapes stepping out from the canvas into three-dimensional form.

Also included are pieces which never saw completion [illegible] the unmistakable Forbes stamp, thus the show's title, "Unfinished Business."

The collection is interpreted in poetry by San Francisco- and Hawaii-based Filipino-American writer R. Zamora Linmark.

Forbes died last February of cancer; he was 25.

The show runs until May 28. Call 7520033.



"[illegible]"